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Types of Unitarian Churches

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First Parish Church

Ashby, Massachusetts

Society organized in 1767.

The first meeting-house built in 1770.

The present building in 1809.

Type of the New England country meeting-house.

First Independent Christ's Church

Baltimore, Maryland

This society was organized in 1817 through the desire excited among certain of Baltimore's citizens by James Freeman, minister of King's Chapel in Boston, for a church "modeled upon the simple principles of the Gospels." The church building was dedicated in 1818. In this church, May 5, 1819, at the ordination of Jared Sparks, the first minister of the church, William Ellery Channing preached the famous "Baltimore Sermon."

Independent Congregational Society

Bangor, Maine

Organized in 1818. Its first church, dedicated in 1829, was burned in 1851, and replaced by the present church in 1853. On its roll of ministers appear the names of Frederic Henry Hedge, Charles Carroll Everett, and Joseph Henry Allen.

The New Meeting-house

Barnstable, Massachusetts

The Congregational Church and Society of the East Precinct traces its history back to the same date, 1639, as that of the settlement of the town. The first meeting-house of the society was built in 1646, during the ministry of John Lothrop, an exile from England during the persecutions of Archbishop Laud. In 1905 the old meeting-house of the society, built in 1836, was burned, and has been replaced on the same site by the present church, which was dedicated July 2, 1907.

Unitarian Church

Bar Harbor, Maine

This society was organized in 1889 under the corporate name of the Liberal Christian Church.

Services are held only during the summer months.

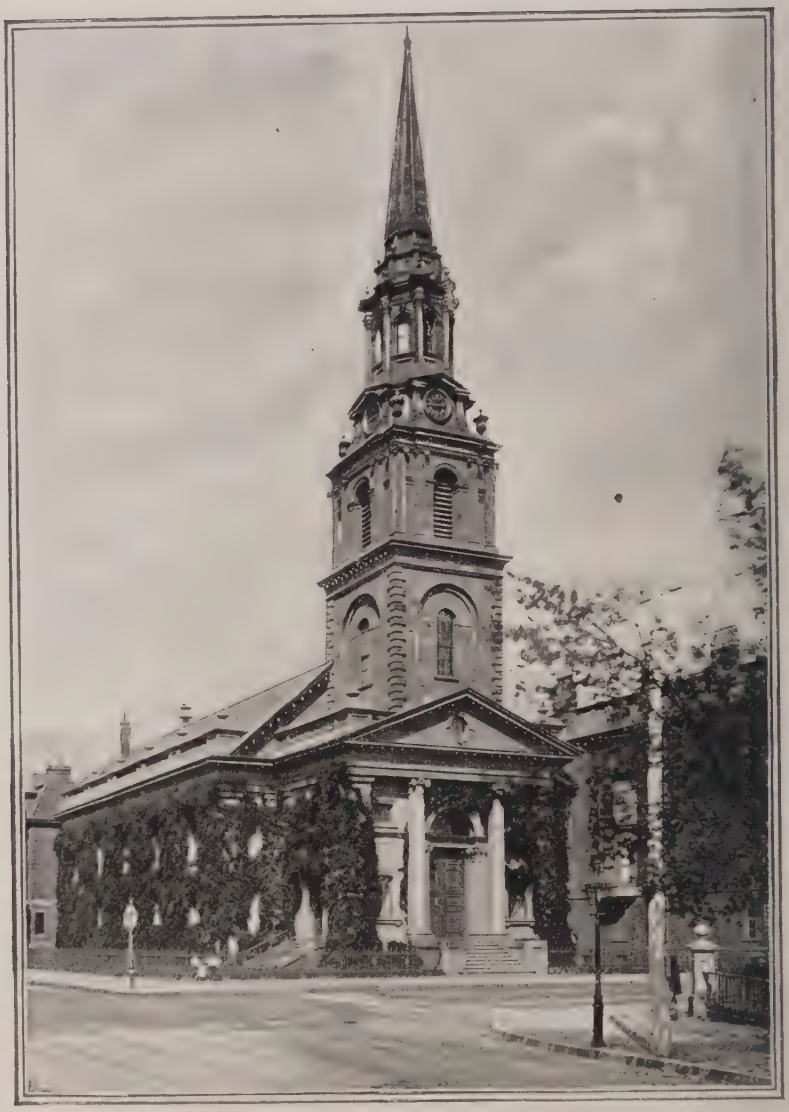
The church, which is a type of the summer resort chapel, was designed by William Emerson and built in 1890.

First Unitarian Church
Berkeley, California

This society was organized in 1891 and the church dedicated in 1898.

It is located at the seat of the University of California, and the congregation is largely composed of teachers and students of the University.

The church is a unique design and is built of the native redwood.



Arlington Street Church

Boston, Massachusetts

This society, once known as the Federal Street Church Society, was organized in 1730 by Scotch Presbyterians who came to Boston from Londonderry, New Hampshire, under the leadership of John Moorhead. In 1729 they purchased a barn at the corner of what is now Federal and Franklin Streets. This barn, remodelled and enlarged, served as a meeting-house until 1744, when a new meeting-house was built. In this second meeting-house the Massachusetts delegates met and accepted the Federal Constitution of the United States in 1788. In 1809 a church was built from designs by Charles Bulfinch, and taken down in 1859, the society then moving to its present location on Arlington Street, dedicating the present church in 1860. The building is one of the noblest types of the style made famous by the London churches of Sir Christopher Wren and his successors.

The Arlington Street Church has had a distinguished ministry:

John Moorhead, 1729–1773.
Robert Annan, 1783–1786.
Jeremy Belknap, 1787–1798.
John Snelling Popkin, 1799–1802.
William Ellery Channing, 1803–1842.
Ezra Stiles Gannett, 1824–1871.
John F. W. Ware, 1872–1881.
Brooke Herford, 1882–1892.
John Cuckson, 1892–1900.
Paul Revere Frothingham, 1900–.

The First Church

Boston, Massachusetts

The First Church in Boston was organized by John Winthrop, Thomas Dudley, and others in Charlestown in 1630, and removed to Boston in 1632. The first meeting-house was built in 1632, with mud walls and thatched roof, on the south side of what is now State Street, at the corner of Devonshire Street. In 1640 a more elaborate structure was built in Cornhill, which was burned in 1711. In 1713 what later was known as the "Old Brick" was built. In 1808 the society moved into a new church in Chauncy Place, which was used until 1868, when the present building was erected, at the corner of Marlborough and Berkeley Streets.

The history of its ministry is interesting. Among the names are John Wilson, John Cotton, John Norton, John Davenport. The church became liberal under Charles Chauncy and definitely Unitarian under John Clark and William Emerson. The church contains many memorial tablets and windows and a recumbent statue of John Cotton. A statue of Governor John Winthrop adorns the grounds.

King's Chapel

Boston, Massachusetts

Organized in 1686. Once the official church of the Royal governors of Massachusetts and the pioneer Episcopal Church in Boston. Under the leadership of James Freeman, ordained rector in 1787, the society became Unitarian.

The present King's Chapel was first occupied in 1754, and is the second church to bear the name. It is one of the most famous historic buildings in America, and contains many interesting memorials.

Second Church in Boston

Boston, Massachusetts

The Second Church, or the "Old North" Church of pre-Revolutionary times, was organized in 1649. The first meeting-house was erected in North Square in 1649, and, after being burned in 1676 and rebuilt in 1677, was finally used for fuel by the British troops in 1775. The present church was dedicated on Sept. 17, 1874, and was built from the material used in the meeting-house of the Church of the Saviour in Bedford Street. On the roll of its ministers are many well-known and distinguished names: John Mayo, 1655–1673; Increase Mather, 1664–1723; Cotton Mather, 1685–1728; Joshua Gee, 1723–1748; Samuel Mather, 1732–1741; Samuel Checkley, Jr., 1747–1768; John Lathrop, 1768–1816; Henry Ware, Jr., 1817–1830; Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1829–1832; Chandler Robbins, 1833–1874; Robert Laird Collier, 1876–1878; Edward A. Horton, 1880–1892. The Rev. Thomas Van Ness, the present minister, was installed in April, 1893.

Church of the Disciples

Boston, Massachusetts

This society was organized by James Freeman Clarke in 1841.

For many years it worshipped in the church on Warren Avenue. Its present church, on Jersey and Peterboro Streets, was dedicated in 1905.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Gordon Ames, the present minister of the church, was installed as successor to Dr. Clarke in 1889.

First Parish Church

Brighton, Massachusetts

The First Parish of Brighton was organized in 1730, and the first meeting-house completed in 1744.

A second meeting-house, built in 1809, has been vacated for this new stone church, dedicated in March, 1895.

First Parish Church

Meeting-house Hill, Dorchester, Massachusetts

Organized in the New Hospital, at Plymouth, England, in 1630, and reorganized at Dorchester in 1636. The oldest church society in Boston. The first meeting-house was built in 1631, and the present house of worship in 1897, being the sixth church erected by this society and the fifth on Meeting-house Hill. The church is one of the very best types of the so-called Colonial style, which is characteristic of the churches of the Puritan descent.

First Religious Society in Roxbury

Eliot Square, Roxbury, Massachusetts

Organized in 1631. The original church was built of logs, and stood from 1632 until 1674.

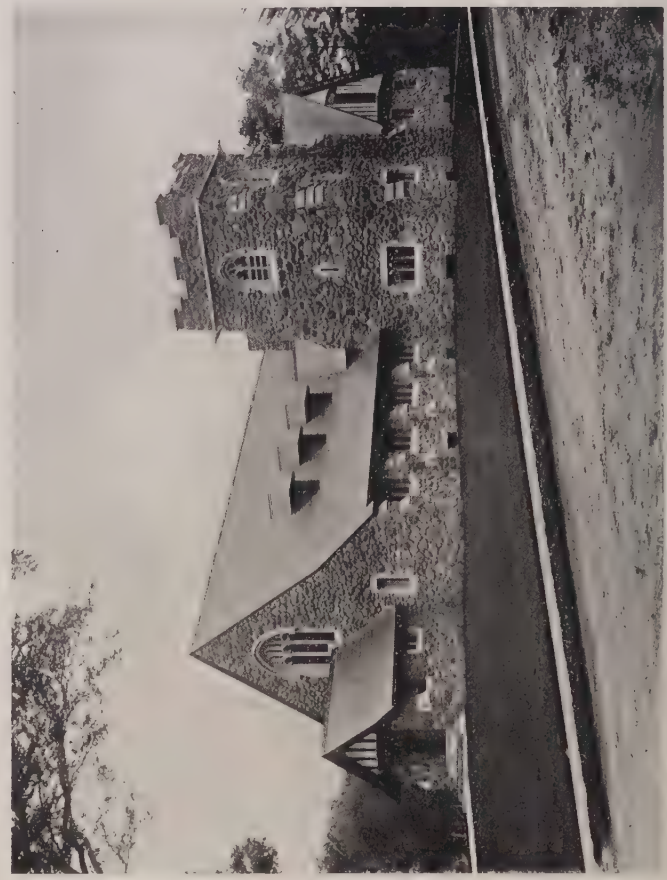
The present church was dedicated in 1804, and is the fifth built on the original site.

John Eliot, the apostle to the Indians was minister of this society from 1632 until 1690. During the ministry of Eliphalet Porter, ordained in 1782, the society became Unitarian. His successors have been George Putnam, 1830-1878; John Graham Brooks 1875-1882. Rev. Dr. James De Normandie became minister of the church in 1883.

All Souls' Unitarian Church

Roxbury, Massachusetts

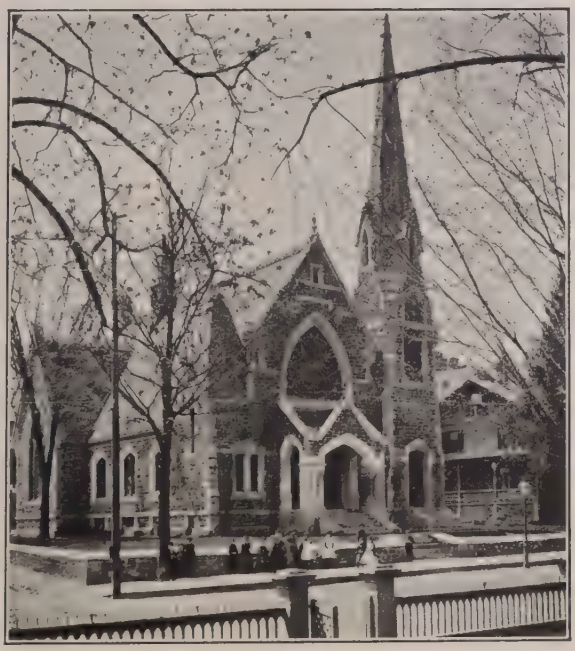
This society was organized in 1846.
Church dedicated October 6, 1889.
Type of a modern suburban church.



All Souls' Church

Braintree, Massachusetts

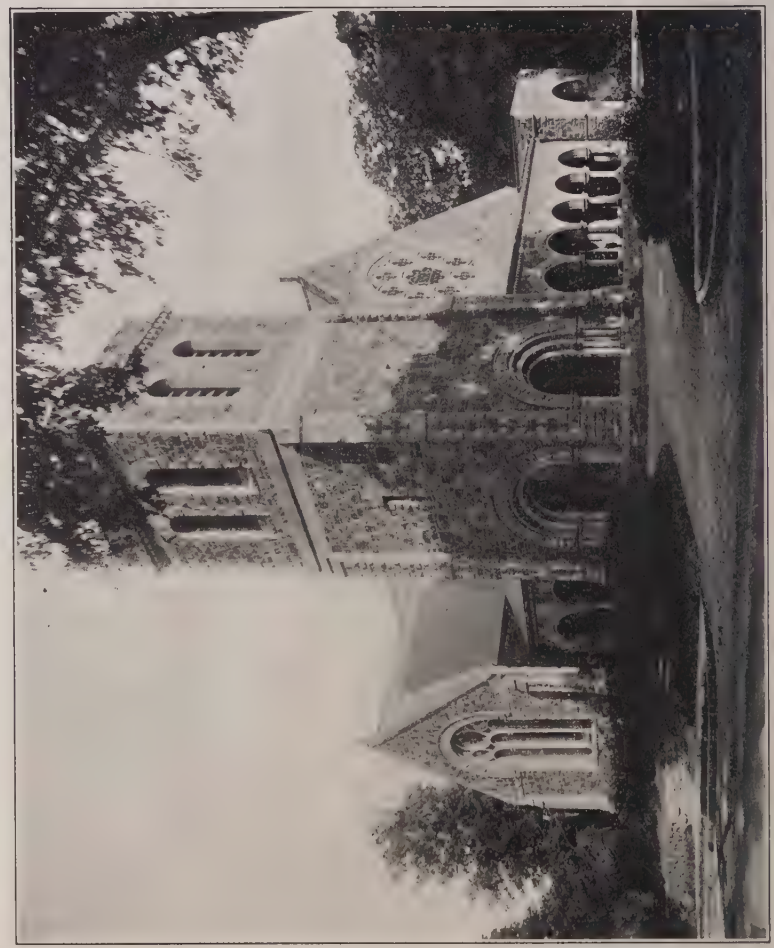
Society organized and church built in 1900. The society has affiliations with both the Unitarian and Universalist denominations. Another example of a modern suburban church building.



Unitarian Congregational Society

Brattleboro, Vermont

Society organized in 1831.
Church dedicated in 1875.



First Parish Church

Brookline, Massachusetts

The First Parish of Brookline was organized in 1717, and in 1718 ordained its first minister, James Allen. Its fifth minister was the famous John Pierce, D.D., who served the church and town as well from 1797 until 1849. Under his ministry the society grew in numbers and influence.

In 1893 the society dedicated its third church, a handsome building of stone, and a fine type of the modern city church. Rev. Dr. Wm. H. Lyon is the present minister.

First Parish

East Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Society organized in 1724.
An excellent type of the country meeting-house.

First Unitarian Church
Buffalo, New York

This church, first opened for public worship in 1906, is a type of the modern city church. Society organized in 1832.

Meeting-house of the First Parish

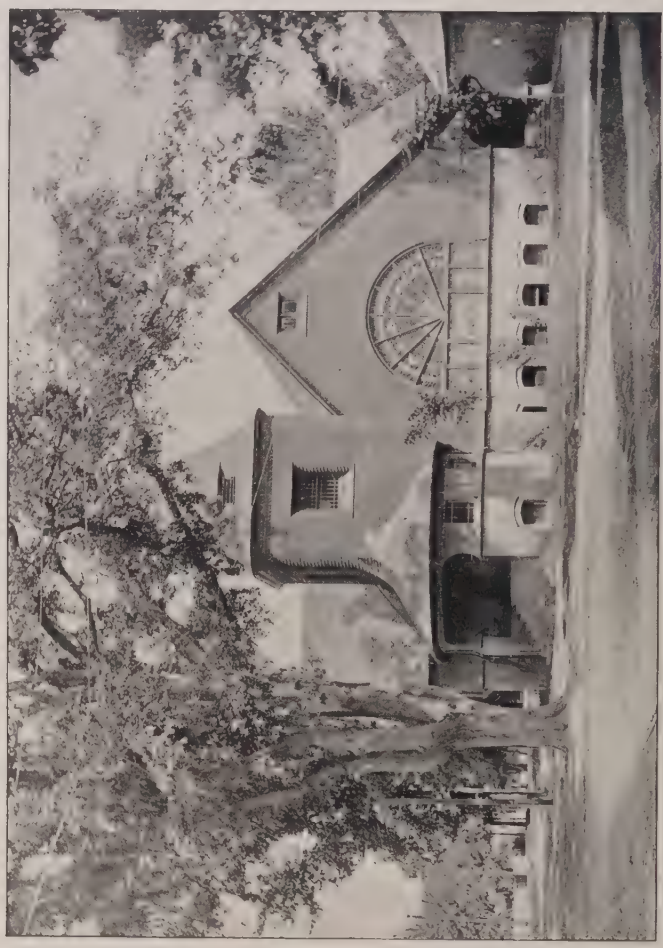
Castine, Maine

This village meeting-house, the oldest in Eastern Maine, was built in 1790. The society, known as the First Congregational Society, was organized in 1798, and in that same year installed William Mason, a graduate of Harvard, who served the church for forty-six years, and was one of the original Unitarians.

Church of the Messiah

Chicago, Illinois

The First Unitarian Society of Chicago and the original Unitarian church in the Middle West was organized in 1836. This church also carries on services and classes in Hull Memorial Chapel, near Chicago University.



First Unitarian Society

Chicopee, Massachusetts

Organized in 1841. Present building, of brick and shingles, dedicated March 30, 1893.

The Church of the Unity

Cleveland, Ohio

Society organized in 1867.
Church dedicated in 1904.

All Souls' Unitarian Church

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Society organized in 1891.
Church dedicated January 8, 1893.

Second Congregational Unitarian Society

Concord, New Hampshire

The Second Congregational Society was organized in 1827. The first church of the society was dedicated in 1829 and destroyed by fire in 1854. A second church built in 1856 was also destroyed by fire in 1888. Nothing daunted the society immediately set about building this third church, a handsome building of brick and granite, and a splendid testimonial to the courage and devotion of the members to their church.

First Parish Meeting-house

Concord, Massachusetts

This meeting-house, dedicated in 1901, has taken the place of the old house, built in 1712 and destroyed by fire in 1900. The old meeting-house was famous as being the scene of the meeting of the First Provincial Congress. Emerson, Hawthorne, and Thoreau had worshipped there.

The organization of the society dates from 1636. Peter Bulkeley was the first minister. He was followed by his son, Edward Bulkeley, and colleague, Joseph Estabrook. Then came Whiting and Bliss, followed by William Emerson, the grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Ezra Ripley, with his colleagues, Hersey Bradford Goodwin and Barzillai Frost followed Mr. Emerson. Then came, in succession, Grindall Reynolds, Benjamin Reynolds Bulkeley, and the present minister, Rev. Loren B. Macdonald.

First Parish Church

Dedham, Massachusetts

This society was organized in 1636. The first meeting-house was built in 1638. In 1673 a second house was built. The third and present house, now greatly enlarged and modified, was built in 1763.

Unitarian Church
Derby, Connecticut

Society organized in 1901.
Church dedicated in 1905.

First Congregational
Unitarian Church

Detroit, Michigan

Society organized
in 1850.

First Congregational
Church

Cincinnati, Ohio

Society organized
in 1830.

First Unitarian Church

Des Moines, Iowa

The First Unitarian Society was organized in 1877.
The present church was built in 1905.

Memorial Church

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

This society was organized in 1832.
The church dedicated in 1904.

Unity Church

Fort Collins, Colorado

Dedicated 1905.

Society organized in 1897.

All Souls' Church

Greenfield, Massachusetts

The Third Congregational Society of Greenfield was organized in 1825.

This stone church was dedicated January 10, 1895.

First Unitarian Church

Helena, Montana

The First Unitarian Society was organized in 1891 and the church dedicated in 1903.

First Parish Church
The Old Meeting-house

Hingham, Massachusetts

The First Parish was organized in 1635. Its first meeting-house, built shortly afterward, was for forty-five years the only house of worship in the town. The present building is the second to be erected by the society, and was built in 1681. It is substantially the same as when first built, and is the oldest church in use as a church, standing on its original site, in the United States.

MINISTERS

Peter Hobart, 1635–1678.
John Norton, 1678–1716.
Ebenezer Gay, 1718–1787.
Henry Ware, 1787–1805.
Joseph Richardson, 1806–1871.
Calvin Lincoln, 1855–1881.
Edward A. Horton, 1877–1880.
Hiram Price Collier, 1882–1888.
John William Day, 1890–1899.
Louis Craig Cornish, 1900—.

Hopedale Unitarian Parish Church

Hopedale, Massachusetts

This parish is an outgrowth of the Hopedale Community, and was organized in 1867.

The present church was dedicated in 1898.

First Unitarian Church

Ithaca, New York

This church of the First Unitarian Society was dedicated May 19, 1896.

The society was organized in 1865.

People's Church

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Society organized in 1858.

Church dedicated December 19, 1894.

Type of an institutional church in a thriving western city.

All Souls' Unitarian Church

Kansas City, Missouri

Society organized in 1868.
Church dedicated in 1905.

The Unitarian Church

Keene, New Hampshire

The Keene Congregational Society was organized in 1824 and the stone church dedicated in 1895.

First Congregational Church

Lancaster, Massachusetts

This society was organized in 1653. The church now in use at Lancaster was built from designs by Charles Bulfinch, of Boston, and dedicated in 1817. The simple beauty of the architecture of this church blends well with that of the modern parish house, standing directly in the rear of the church. It is the ideal working church plant for a country community.

First Congregational Church

Leominster, Massachusetts

The First Congregational Society was organized in 1743 and its new church dedicated in 1904.

First Unitarian Society

Madison, Wisconsin

Society organized in 1879.

Church dedicated March 7, 1886.

Situated at the seat of the University of Wisconsin.

All Souls' Church

Lincoln, Nebraska

Society organized in 1898. This church is also in a university town. Lincoln is the seat of the University of Nebraska.

Church of the Messiah
Louisville, Kentucky

This society organized in 1830.
The stone church now occupied by
the society was dedicated in 1872.

The Unitarian Church

London, Canada

Society organized in 1904.
Church purchased and dedicated in 1907.

First Parish Church

Medford, Massachusetts

Society organized in 1712.
Church built in 1894.

First Unitarian Church

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Society organized in 1895.
Services are held during the summer months by visiting ministers.
Another type of summer chapel.

Channing Chapel

Winter Harbor, Maine

Society organized in 1889.

Services held during the summer months.

A chapel built out of the field stones of a rough sea-side pasture.

First Unitarian Church

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Society organized in 1842.
Church built in 1892.

First Unitarian Church

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Society organized in 1881. Another type of the institutional church in a western city.

Unity Church

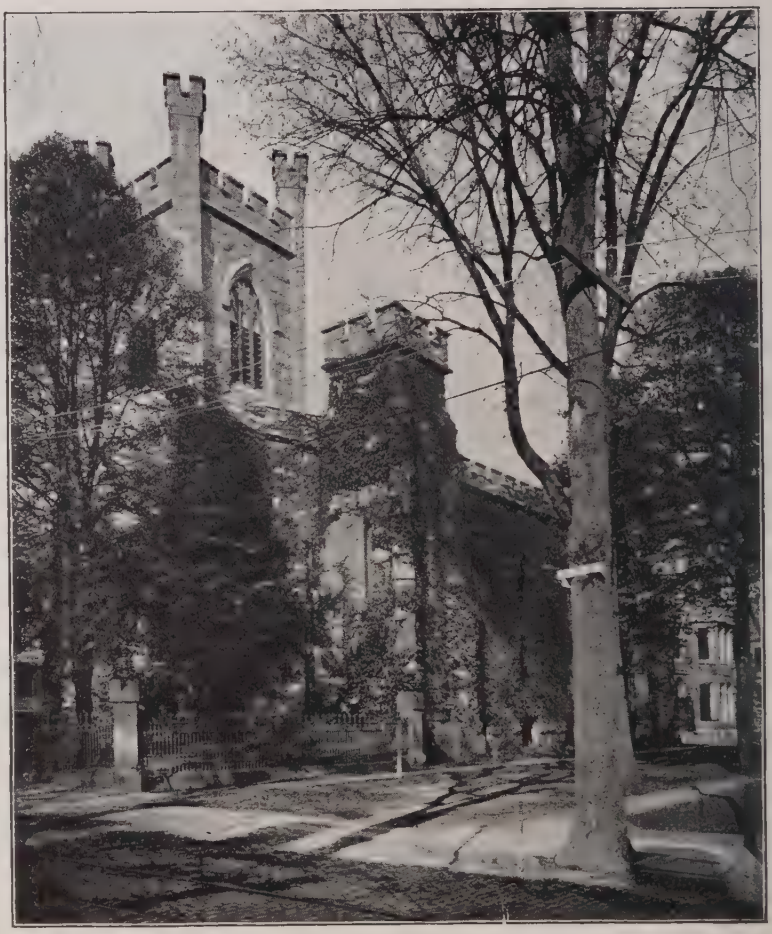
Montclair, New Jersey

This society was organized in 1897.
Church built in 1904.

Unitarian Church

Newburyport, Massachusetts

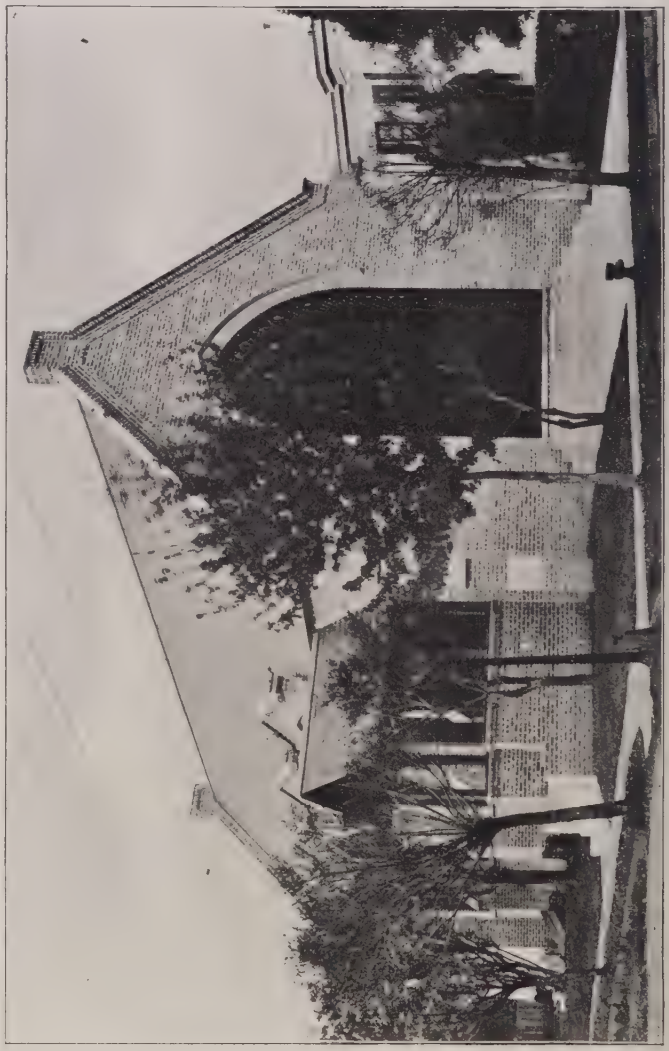
Another good example of the old type of New England meeting-house with high steeple. This building is over one hundred years old. The First Religious Society, originally the Third Parish of Newbury, was organized in 1725. Among its ministers have been Thomas B. Fox, Thomas W. Higginson, and Joseph May.



First Congregational Society

New Bedford, Massachusetts

This society was organized in 1708, and the stone church pictured opposite was dedicated May 23, 1838. The society has had a distinguished ministry. Dr. Samuel West served the church for forty-three years, being ordained June 3, 1761. After Dr. West came the Rev. Ephraim Randall, Rev. Jonathan Whitaker, Rev. Orville Dewey, Rev. Joseph Angier, Rev. Ephraim Peabody, Rev. John H. Morison, Rev. John Weiss, Rev. Charles Lowe, Rev. William J. Potter, and Rev. Paul Revere Frothingham. The Rev. William B. Geoghegan, the present minister, was settled in 1902.



First Unitarian Church

New Orleans, Louisiana

Founded in 1833, and the present church, the third house of worship, dedicated in 1902.

Channing Memorial Church

Newport, Rhode Island

This society was organized in 1835. In 1836 William Ellery Channing preached the sermon at the dedication of the society's first church.

The stone church now occupied by the society was built in 1881.

Channing Church

Newton, Massachusetts

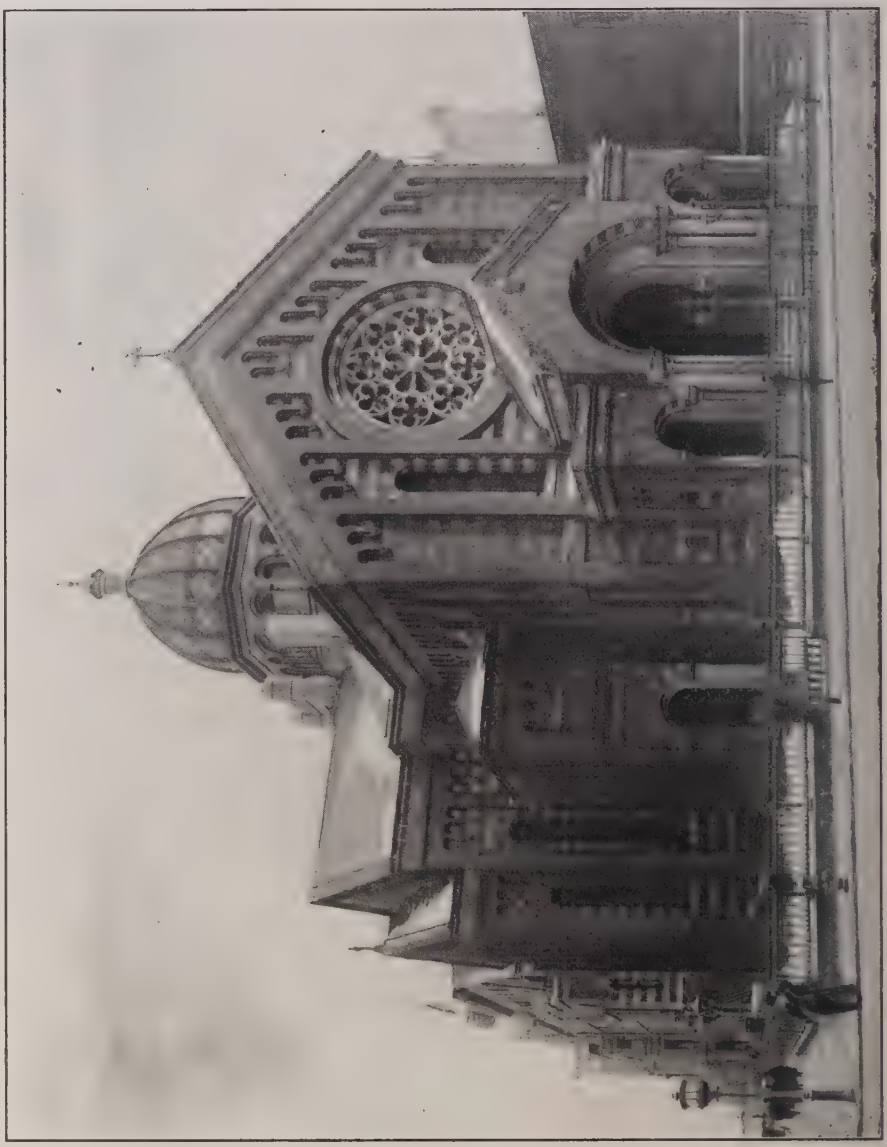
The Channing Religious Society was organized in 1851. The first meeting-house was erected in 1856, and replaced in 1882 by the present beautiful building. The ministry of the society begins with the Rev. Joseph C. Smith, 1853–1857; the Rev. Edward James Young, D.D., 1857–1869; the Rev. Eli Fay, D.D. 1870–1873; the Rev. George Washington Hosmer, D.D., 1873–1879; the Rev. Francis Bickford Hornbrooke, D.D., 1879–1900. The Rev. Adelbert Lathrop Hudson was settled in 1901.

First Unitarian Church

West Newton, Massachusetts

Society was organized in 1848.

Church dedicated in 1906.



All Souls' Church

New York City, New York

The First Congregational Church of New York City owes its beginning to the preaching of Channing in that city in 1819. The society was organized in the same year, and the present church of All Souls built in 1855. It contains the memorial tablet by Saint-Gaudens to Dr. Henry W. Bellows, who served the church as minister for forty-three years.

Church of the Messiah

New York City, New York

The Second Congregational Unitarian Society was organized in 1825, and this church dedicated in 1868.

Unitarian Church

Northampton, Massachusetts

The Second Congregational Society of Northampton was organized in 1825.

The present church, replacing the original building, destroyed by fire, was dedicated in 1904.

Unity Church

North Easton, Massachusetts

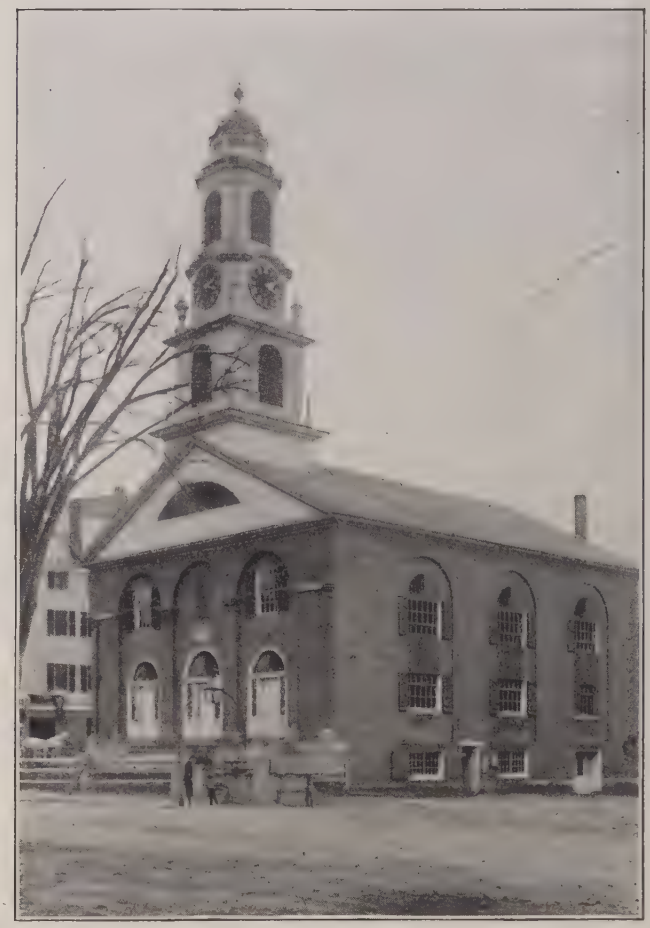
This society was organized in 1855, and in 1875 dedicated this beautiful stone church.

Rev. William L. Chaffin, minister of the church, was settled in 1868, and his associate, Rev. Abram Wyman, in 1905.

Church of Our Father

Ottawa, Canada

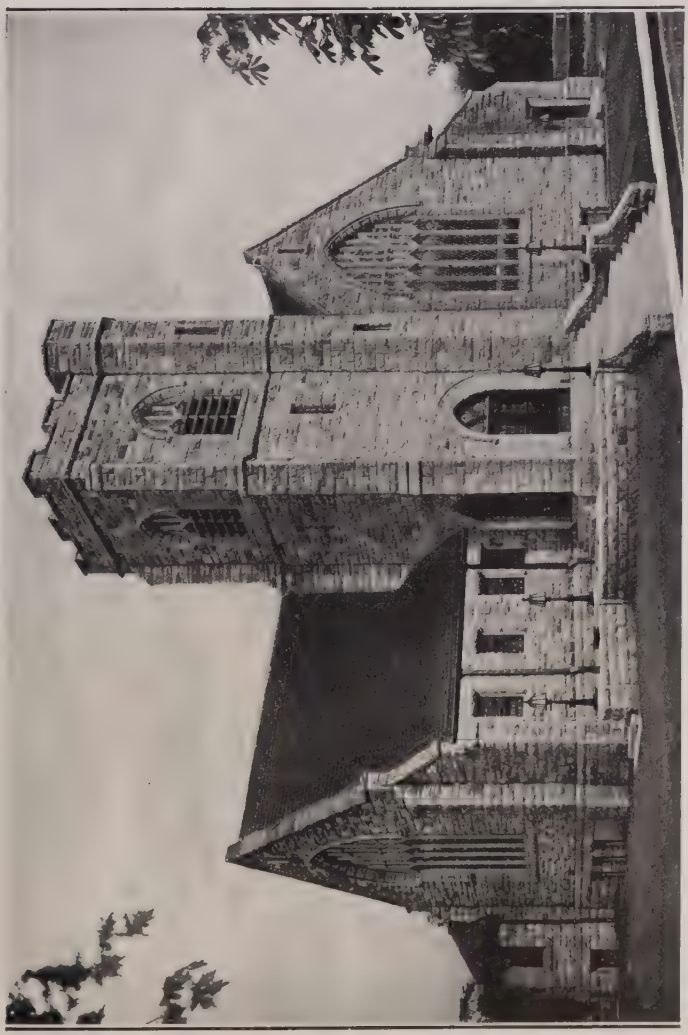
Society organized in 1898.
Church built in 1898.



Unitarian Church

Peterboro, New Hampshire

This church built in 1825 from designs by Charles Bulfinch, of Boston. The society was organized in 1799.



First Unitarian Church

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Society organized in 1889.
New church dedicated in 1904.

First Parish

Portland, Maine

The old stone meeting-house of the First Parish, Portland, Maine, dedicated in 1826. Society organized in 1718.

First Parish

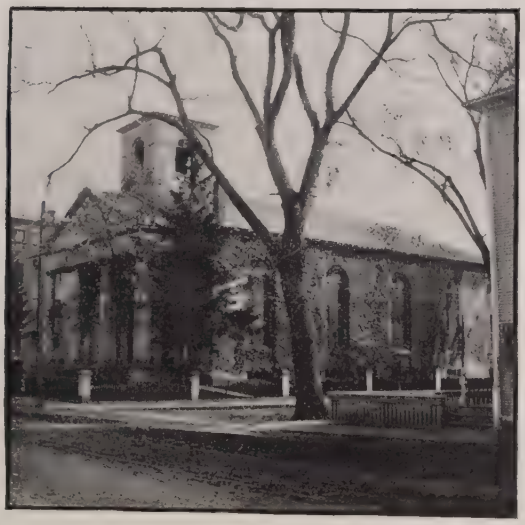
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Founded at Scrooby England in 1606. Organized in America in 1620. First meeting-house erected in 1648. This fifth meeting-house, dedicated in 1899, bears the following inscription: "The Church of Scrooby, Leyden and the Mayflower gathered on this hillside in 1620, has ever since preserved unbroken records and maintained a continuous ministry, its first covenant being still the basis of its fellowship. In reverent memory of its Pilgrim Founders this Fifth Meeting-house was erected A.D. MDCCCXCVII."

First Unitarian Church

Plainfield, New Jersey

The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield was organized in 1889.



Church of the South Parish

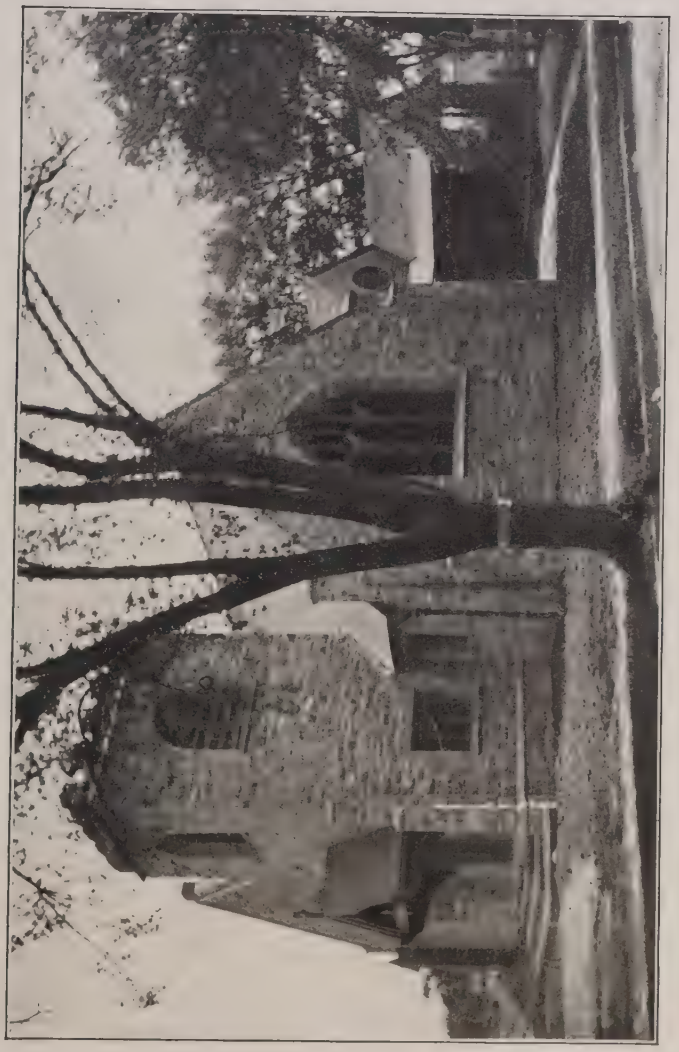
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

This stone church was built in 1826, during the ministry of Dr. Nathan Parker.

The South Parish was organized in 1638, and is the direct outgrowth of the first religious assembly in Portsmouth, its traditions being the oldest of any church in the town.

First Congregational Church

Providence, Rhode Island



Westminster Congregational Society

Providence, Rhode Island

The First Church

Quincy, Massachusetts

This society, organized in 1639, is famous for its statesmen and the part it has had in all affairs of the nation. Church home of the Adamses, Hancocks, and Hoars. This church was built in 1828.

Unity Church

Redlands, California

This society was organized in 1892. It has just built its new church under the ministry of Rev. Maxwell Savage, who has been the minister of the church since 1903.

First Unitarian Church

Richmond, Virginia

Society organized in 1903.
Church dedicated in 1906.

First Unitarian-Congregational Church

Rochester, New York

Society organized in 1841, and the present church bought and dedicated in 1883.

Unity Church

St. Paul, Minnesota

Society organized in 1872.
Dedicated in 1905.

Pacific Coast

A representative group of our Pacific coast churches.

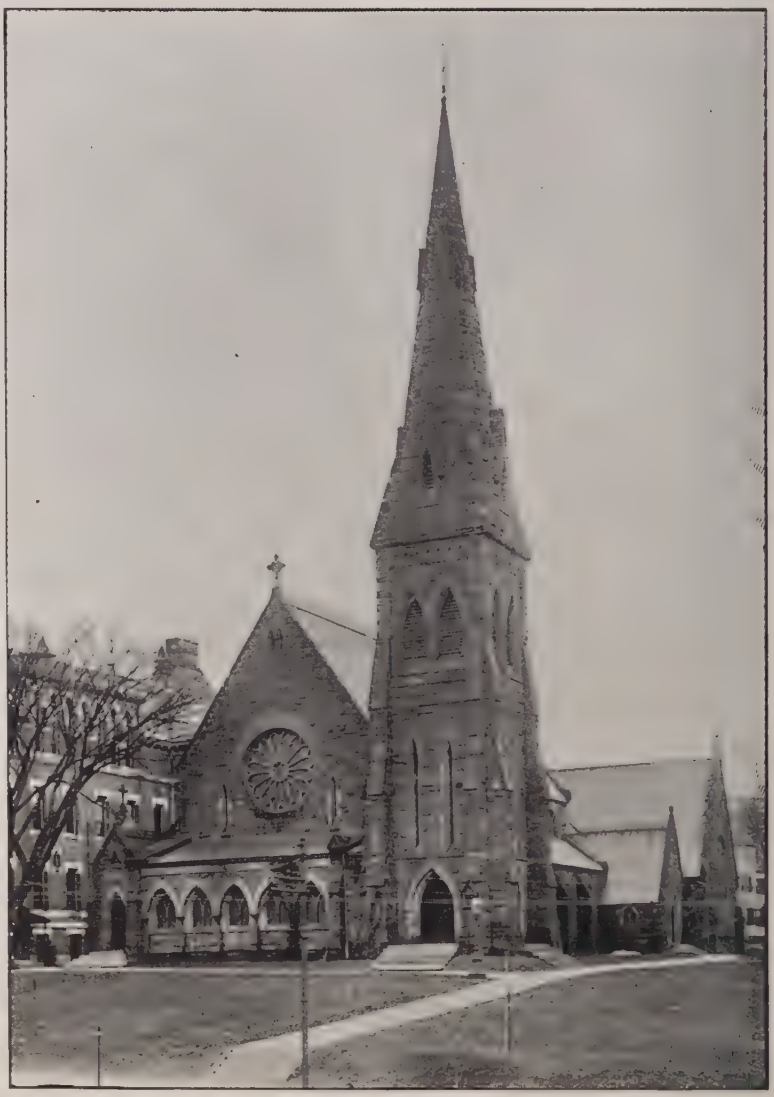
Unitarian Church

Santa Barbara, California

Church of the First Congregational Society

Somerville, Massachusetts

The society was organized in 1846.
The present church, the fourth built
by the society, was erected in 1894.



Church of the Unity

Springfield, Massachusetts

The Third Congregational (Unitarian) Society of Springfield was organized in 1819. This church, one of the noblest Gothic designs of the late H. H. Richardson, was dedicated February 17, 1869.

It contains beautiful memorial windows. The parsonage adjoins the church on the right, and opposite is the city's Public Library.

May Memorial Church

Syracuse, New York

This society was organized in 1838.

The church building bears the name of Samuel J. May, who was minister from 1845 to 1868.

First Congregational Church

Taunton, Massachusetts

Society organized in 1637.

This stone church, the fourth on the original site of the first church in Taunton, was built in 1830.

First Unitarian Church

Troy, New York

Society organized in 1845.
The present building was dedicated in 1906.

All Souls' Church

Washington, District of Columbia

First Parish Church

Wayland, Massachusetts

First Parish Church

Weston, Massachusetts

An old New England parish, organized in 1698, with a new church of stone, dedicated in 1888.

Church of the Unity

Winchendon, Massachusetts

This society was organized in 1865, and their handsome stone church was dedicated in 1867.

Unitarian Church

Winchester, Massachusetts

A splendid example of the new type of Unitarian church.

Built in 1900. The society organization dates from 1865.

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